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ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATOR FOR ABYEI STILL TO BE DETERMINED

1. (SBU) Summary: Consul General Juba paid an office call on Arop Moyak Monytoc, Chairman of the Southern Sudan DDR Commission and potential new Abyei Administrator. Moyak confirmed that GOSS President Salva Kiir had called him to discuss his willingness to take on the job, but indicated that it had not yet actually been offered to him. Moyak himself said he favored the selection of incumbent Edward Lino for the position, although he told Kiir he would accept the appointment if offered. He further said that it was not the NCP who opposed Lino, that there is bad blood between Kiir and Lino, and that many in the SPLM, with the exception of Moyak himself and FM Deng Alor, are opposed to a Lino appointment. End Summary

2. (SBU) On July 7 ConGen met with SSDDRC Chairman Arop Moyak Monytoc to discuss the rumor that he might be named the new Administrator for Abyei. Moyak confirmed that GOSS President Kiir had called him to discuss the job, but he had not actually been offered it yet.

3. (SBU) Moyak described the Administrator's position as a difficult challenge. Originally from Abyei himself, he said the people there are losing confidence in the CPA, and they felt the GOSS had let them down. In addition, "UNMIS has no teeth and no one recognizes their authority." Critical to turning this situation around, he said, is reestablishing security in Abyei. The SPLA is already almost entirely out of the region, and the SAF is slowly starting to leave. Before an Administrator could take up his role, however, the SAF had to finish their evacuation and the town needed to be demined.

4. (SBU) Asked about the possibility of a Misseriya taking on the Deputy Administrator slot, Moyak answered emphatically that was not possible. "They are not a part of Abyei," he said. "None of them are native to Abyei." There were many Arab traders with long standing ties to the town, whose children had been born there, and they were welcome to participate in the community and the government. The Misseriya were not, although they were welcome to continue to drive their cattle through the region unmolested, as they had always done, on the way to their seasonal grazing fields to the south.

5. (SBU) Moyak continued that he was by no means the only candidate for the Administrator's position. Edward Lino was still in the running, and he, Moyak, personally supported his selection. He said he had suggested him to Kiir, but that Lino was now unpopular in the region and with many in the SPLM because it was thought he had created the situation that led to the fighting in May. Further, he said that there was bad blood between Lino and Kiir, he was not sure why, but he thought it went back to something that had happened between them many years before. It was only the intervention of FM Deng Alor that had convinced Kiir to make Lino the Administrator for Abyei previously. He (Moyak) and Deng Alor still do support his selection, however, Moyak said.

6. (SBU) Comment: We have heard previously that Lino had lost favor

in the SPLM. Although Moyak would seem to be a natural choice to replace him in Abyei, Presidential Minister Luka Biong Deng just two days ago indicated that he did not believe Moyak would get the nod. Given FM Alor's advocacy for Lino, there appears to be a struggle in the SPLM itself over who to choose that could be more bruising than any difference with the NCP over the subject. However, if an Administrator is not selected soon, the Abyei Road Map Agreement schedule will slip dangerously further than it already has, increasing the potential for near term conflict. We will continue to encourage the parties to seek creative solutions to this impasse on the question of the Abyei deputy administrator.

FERNANDEZ